

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

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An emergency ladder system for providing an exit from non-ground level floors of a building in the event of an emergency such as a fire includes an alarm system having fire detectors positioned in a building. The alarm system is operationally coupled to a  
10 ladder positioned in a compartment, typically underground. Upon detection of a fire in the building, a door covering the compartment is automatically opened, an audible alarm sounds, and the ladder is extended to reach an opening in an upper floor of the building to provide an escape route from the building.